

Gray Wolf Population 2003-2004

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Abstract

The Wisconsin wolf population count in late winter 2004 was 373 to 410 wolves in 108 packs and included at least 14 loners. A total of 361+ wolves occurred outside Indian reservations, thus the population achieved the management goal of 350 wolves outside of Indian reservations. The wolf population increased by 11% from last year, when 335 wolves were counted in the state. Wolf packs occurred in at least 30 Wisconsin counties and reports of wolf observations were received from 39 counties.

Introduction

Gray wolves recolonized Wisconsin in the mid-1970's and WDNR has monitored populations annually since 1979. In 1975 the Wisconsin DNR listed the gray wolf as a state endangered species and downlisted them to threatened status in 1999. On March 24, 2004, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved delisting wolves from threatened status and listing them as a protected wild animal. This state delisting should be finalized later in summer 2004.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed gray wolves in the eastern U.S. as endangered in 1967 and again in 1974. The Service downlisted wolves to federally threatened status on 1 April 2003, and is expected to start a delisting process in summer 2004, which could be completed in 2005.

As part of the federal and state delisting processes, intense population surveys are needed to determine the status of the wolf population in the state. This report summarizes wolf survey activity for 2003 and portions of 2004.

Method

Wolf numbers were determined by live trapping/ radio tracking (Mech 1974, Fuller and Snow 1988), howl surveys (Harrington and Mech 1982), and winter track surveys (Thiel and Welch 1981, Wydeven et al. 1996). Track surveys were conducted in blocks of suitable habitat (Mladenoff et al. 1995), or areas where wolves had been reported. Additional information on wolf abundance was determined from wolves reported by agency personnel or general public through "Rare Mammal Observation Cards" (Wydeven 1992).

Results and Discussion

A minimum count of 373 to 410 wolves was obtained in Wisconsin in late winter 2003-2004 (Table 1). One hundred eight packs were located in 20 northern and 10 central Wisconsin Counties (Figure 1, Tables 1 & 2). Average pack size of 91 northern packs was 3.5 to 3.8 wolves, and was 3.3 to 3.5 for 17 central Wisconsin packs. Fourteen animals (3.8%) were identified as lone wolves across the state, but lone wolves are probably underestimated in the population.

Figure 2 illustrates the changes in the Wisconsin wolf population over the last 25 years. The population increase from 1985 to 2002 averaged about 20% annually, but increased only 2 % in

2003 and 11% in 2004. The reduced rate of growth in recent years suggests that the wolf population may be approaching carrying capacity.

A total of 53 wolves were found dead in Wisconsin in 2003, including 20 radio collared wolves (Table 3). A total of 78 radio tagged wolves were tracked in the state in 2003, and 26% were found known to die in the state. Among radio collared wolves, mortalities consisted of 3 vehicle collisions (15%), 1 euthanized at a depredation site (5%), 4 illegal shootings (20%), 6 died due to mange (30%), 1 other disease (5%), 1 other wolves (5%), and 4 unknown causes (20%).

Mortality totals for all 53 dead wolves included: 14 vehicle collision (26%), 17 euthanized at depredation sites (32%), 9 illegal shootings (17%), 6 mange (11%), 2 other disease (4%), 1 other wolves (2%), and 4 unknown (8%). For the total sample at least 40 (76%) died from human caused mortality, but within the less biased sample of collared animals, 8 (or 40%) were human caused. Mange killed nearly 1/3 of collared wolves that died, but was not detected in non-collared wolves. Rate of illegal kill was a little less than last year, and was similar in both samples (20 vs. 17% in 2003, and 21 vs. 25% in 2002).

Wolf observations classified as “possible” or “probable” occurred in 39 Wisconsin Counties. The 330 total observation reports received were slightly less than 2002, when 355 reports of wolf observations were received. Highest numbers of observations were for Marinette (31), Price (29), Oneida (28), and Iron (26) Counties. Highest observations were from counties with known breeding packs. Other counties probably represent dispersing wolves, but some may represent mis-identifications.

The wolf count in 2003-2004 included 361 to 398 wolves in Wisconsin outside Indian reservations. This is the first year the population goal of 350 wolves outside of Indian reservations (Wisconsin DNR 1999) was achieved, and the 3rd year that wolves were above the state delisting goal of 250 wolves outside of Indian reservations. State delisting should be completed later in summer 2004.

The federal delisting goal for the state was 100 wolves present in Wisconsin and Michigan for 5 or more years (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1992). The wolf population in Wisconsin and Michigan was at least 734 wolves (361 in Michigan) in 2003-2004, and has been at 100 or more since 1994. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to start the federal delisting process for the Eastern Distinct Population Segment of gray wolves later in summer 2004, and could complete the process in 2005.

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Table 1. Pack and lone wolf summaries in Wisconsin, winter 2003-20004. (Map #'s refer to Figure 1.)

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
<u>Northern Wisconsin</u>								
1	Pokegama River	1	Douglas	2	0	T	O	Y
2	Foxboro	2	Douglas	3-5	1?	T	O	Y
3	Truck Trail	2	Douglas	4-5	2	T	O	Y
4	North Empire	3	Douglas	3+	1	T	O	Y
5	South Empire	3	Douglas	2+	?	T	O	Y
6	Moose Lake	4	Douglas	6	2-4	R	473M A	Y
7	Lake Nebagamom	6	Douglas	2	0?	O	O	?
8	Shoberg Lake	6	Douglas	3	1?	O	O	?
9	Casey Creek	7	Douglas	4	1-2	T	O	?
10	Poplar River	7	Douglas	2	0	O	O	?
11	Chain Lake	8	Douglas	2-4	?	T	O	?
12	Crotte Creek	9	Douglas	6-8	4-6	T	O	Y
13	Bird Sanctuary	9	Douglas	6	2-4	R	447F A	Y
14	Riverside	10	Burnett	2	0	T	O	Y
15	Moose Road	11	Douglas	2+	0	T	O	?
16	Chase Brook	11	Burnett	3	1?	T	O	Y
17	Stuntz Brook	12	Washburn	2	0?	O	O	Y
18	Crex Loner	13	Burnett	1+		T	O	N
19	Sterling Barrens	14	Burnett/Polk	2-4	?	T	O	?
20	Clam River	17	Burnett/Polk	2	0	R	460F A	?
*	Dugan Lake	19,21	Washburn	1-2	0	O	O	N
21	Blue Hills South	20,126	Rusk/Barron	2+	0?	T/O	O	?
22	Blue Hills North	20	Rusk/Sawyer	1+	0	T	O	N
23	Tranus Lake	22	Washburn	6	4	T/O	O	Y?
24	Springbrook	22	Washburn	2	0	R	446F A	?
25	Frog Creek	23	Douglas/Wash.	5-6	2-3	T	O	Y
26	Ghost Lake	24	Bayf./Sawyer	3-4	1-2	T	O	Y
27	Seeley Hills	24	Bayf./Sawyer	3	1?	T	O	Y
28	Smoky Hill	25	Bayf./Sawyer	2+	0	T	O	Y
29	Bearsdale	25	Bayfield	4	1-2	R/T	472F A	Y
30	Moreland Lake	26	Bayfield	5	2-3	T	464F A	Y
31	Rainbow Lake	27	Bayfield	4-5	1-3	T	O	Y
32	Ino Swamp	27	Bayfield	3	1?	O	O	?
33	Bibbon Swamp	28	Bayfield	5	1-3	T	O	Y
34	Porcupine Lake	29	Bayfield	3	1?	T	O	Y
35	Moquah	30	Bayfield	2	1?	O	O	N
36	Orienta Falls	31,7	Douglas/Bayf.	4	1-2	T	O	Y
37	Flag River	31,32	Bayfield	3	1-2	R	438M A 439F A	Y
38	Siskiwit Lake	32,33	Bayfield	3	1?	T	O	?
39	Echo Valley	33	Bayfield	3	1	T	O	Y
40	Beaver Dam Lake	34,35	Ashland/Bayf.	5	3	T	O	Y
41	Hellhole Creek	35	Ashland/Bayf.	3	?	R/T	444F A	Y
42	Brush Creek	36	Ashland	3	1?	T	O	Y
43	Black Lake	37	Ashl./Sawyer	3-6	1-3?	R/T	462M A	Y
44	Round Lake	37	Sawyer	3	1	T	457M A	Y
45	Torch River	38,36	Ashland	5-7	2-3	R/T	248M A	Y
46	Shanagolden	38,36	Ashland	9-11	6-7	T	O	Y
47	Hungry Run	38,40	Ashland	6-7	2-4	T	O	Y
48	West Firelane	39	Ashland	4	1?	T/R	036F A	?

Table 1. Continued.

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
49	Morrison Creek	39	Ashland/Iron	4	1-2?	T	O	?
50	White River	39,34	Ashland	2	0	T/O	O	?
51	Log Creek	40	Ashland	4-6	2	T	O	Y
52	Price Creek	41	Price/Sawyer	3-6	1+	T	O	Y
53	Thornapple River	41	Sawyer	3	?	T	O	Y
54	Davis Lake	41,52	Price	3	?	T	O	Y
55	Eddy Creek	42	Sawyer	2	0	T	O	Y
56	Tupper Creek	43	Sawyer	2	0	T	O	Y
57	Haystack Corner	43	Sawyer/Rusk	4	2	O	O	Y
58	Spring Creek	44	Price	5	3	T	O	Y?
59	Skinner Creek	44	Price	4-5	2-3	T	O	Y
60	Green Creek	46	Price/Rusk	2	0	T	O	Y
61	Kidrick Swamp	47	Taylor	4	1-2	T	O	Y
62	Mondeaux Flowage	47	Taylor	2-3	?	T	O	?
63	Averill Creek South	48	Lincoln	4	1-2	T	489M P	Y
64	Spirit Lake	49	Lincoln/Taylor	3	1?	R/T	456F A	Y
65	Little Rice River	51,67	Oneida/Price	9	4-6	R/T	355M A	Y
*	Loner 481M	51,52	Price	1	0	R	481M A	N
66	Bootjack Lake	53	Price/Oneida	2	0	T	466F Y	Y?
67	Miles Lake	54	Price/Vilas	2	0	T	O	Y
68	Hoffman Lake	55	Ashland/Iron	5-6	2-3	T	O	Y
69	Murray's Landing	55	Iron	5-6	2-3	R/T	481M A 469M A	Y
70	Eastside Firelane	56	Ashland	3-4	1+	T	O	?
71	Chippewa River	56	Iron/Ashland	2	0	T/R	351M A	Y
72	Augustine Lake	57	Iron/Ashland	3+	1?	T	O	?
73	O'Brien Lake	57,59	Iron	3+	1?	T	O	Y
74	Pine Lake	58	Iron	2	0	T/R	448F Y 497M A	Y?
75	Cedar Lake	62	Iron	2	0	O	O	?
76	North Willow	65	Oneida	4	1-2	R/T	461F Y 482M A	Y
77	Somo River	68	Lincoln	5	2-3	T	O	Y
78	Ranger Island	69	Lincoln	4	2	R	G664MA 479M P	Y
79	Averill Creek North	70	Lincoln	7	3-4	R/T	485F Y	Y
80	Harrison Hills Loner	71	Lincoln	1	0	T	O	N
81	Pelican Lake	76,77	Oneida	2	0?	T	332F A	?
82	Stella Lake	77	Oneida	2	0	R/T	376F A	Y
*	Bearskin Loner	78	Oneida	1	0	T	O	N
*	Stone Lake Loner	79	Oneida	1	0	T	O	N
83	Escanaba Lake	80	Vilas	3	1?	T/O	O	?
84	Nineweb Lake	81	Vilas	2-3	0?	T	O	Y
85	Giant Pine	84	Forest	3	1?	T/O	O	?
86	Ada Lake	92	Oconto/Lang.	3	1	T	O	Y
87	Alvin Creek	96,97	Forest	2	0	T	O	Y
88	Morgan Lake	98	Florence	2	0	T	O	Y
89	Camp 6	101,102	Forest/Marin.	2	0	T	O	Y
*	Shawano Creek Loner	102	Forest	1	0	T	O	N

Table 1. Continued.

Map #	Pack or Area	Block	Counties	Winter Count	Pup Estim.	Evid. ¹	Collared Wolf	Breed. ²
90	Pike River	107	Marinette	3	0	R/T	336M A	Y
91	Dunbar	108	Marin./Floren.	5-7	3-5	T	474M A	Y
*	Pemebonwon Loner	110	Marinette	1	0	T	O	N
92	Lake Noquebay	113	Marinette	2	0	T	O	N
*	Beaver Creek Loner	114	Marinette	1	0	O	O	N
93	Long Lake	126	Rusk	2	0	R/T	393F A	Y
*	Loner 474M	130, 90	Menom./Shaw.	1	0	R	474M A	N
94	Oconto River	131	Oconto	3	0	R	449M Y 452F Y 454F A	N
*	Door Loner		Door/Kewaun.	1	0	O	O	N
Northern WI Totals		12 Loners 91 Packs	317-350 Total wolves 3.5-3.8 wolves/pack				91-127 Pups	
Central Wisconsin								
95	Eau Claire River	117	E. Claire/Clark	4	1-2	T	O	Y
96	Iron Run	118	Clark	4	1-2	T	O	Y
97	Wedges Creek	118	Clark	2	0	T	O	Y
98	Two Korner	119	Jackson	4-5	1-3	T	O	Y
99	Noch Hanai	119	Jackson	3	0?	O	O	?
100	Martin Marsh	119	Jackson	3	1-2	R/O	429F A	N?
101	Wildcat Mound	120	Jackson	3	1	+	416M P	Y
102	Bear Bluff	121	Jackson	3-4	1-2	R/T	311F A 426F Y 413F P	Y
103	South Bluff	121	Wood	2	0	T	O	Y?
104	Dead Creek	121,122	Monroe/Jacks.	5-7	3-5	T	411F P	Y
105	Silo	122	Juneau	5	2-3	O	O	Y?
106	Fort McCoy	123	Monroe	2	0	R/T	465F A	Y
107	Seneca	124	Wood	3	1?	T	341F A 414F P	Y
108	Pittsville Loner	124	Wood	1	0	T	O	N
	Rattail	125	Juneau	2	0	R/T	340F A 338M A	Y
109	Colburn W.A.	127	Adams	2	0	T	O	?
110	Caves Creek	128	Marqu./Adams	2	0	R/O	425F Y	?
	Yellow River Loner	129	Juneau	1	0	T	O	N
111	Mead W.A.	133	Wood/Marath.	4	2	T/O	O	Y?
Central WI Totals		2 Loners 17 Packs	56-60 Total wolves 3.3-3.5 wolves/pack				14-23 Pups	
Statewide Totals		14 Loners 108 Packs	373-410 Total wolves 3.5-3.8 wolves/pack		12 wolves on reservations 361-398 off reservations		105-150 Pups	

¹ R = Radiotelemetry T = Track Surveys O = Observation Reports² Y = Yes N = No Y? = Possible ? = Unknown

Table 2. *Wolf pack territories 2003-2004 (mapped in Figure 1).*

Pack Name	Map #	Year ^a	Collared Wolves	# of radio locations	# of other locations ^b	Area (mi ²)	Zone ^c
2-Korner	98	Approx. ^d	None	0	0	NE ^e	2
Ada Lake	86	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Alvin Lake	87	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Augustine Lake	72	1999	W229	-	0	NE	1
Averill Creek North	79	2004	W485	27	5	80	1
Averill Creek South	63	2004	W489	12	3	35	1
Bear Bluff	102	2004	W311,W412,W413,W426	96	1	46	2
Bearsdale	29	2004	W472	24	1	34	1
Beaver Dam Lake	40	Approx.	None	0	2	NE	1
Bibbon Swamp	33	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Bird Sanctuary	13	2004	W447	53	7	41	1
Black Lake	43	2004	W370, W462	44	6	46	1
Blue Hills North	22	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Blue Hills South	21	Approx.	None	0	9	NE	1
Bootjack Lake	66	2004	W466	25	3	89	1
Brush Creek	42	2002	M310	-	2	NE	1
Camp 6	89	Approx.	None	0	2	NE	1
Casey Creek	9	Approx.	None	0	8	NE	1
Caves Creek	110	2004	W426	10	3	10	2
Cedar Lake	75	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Chain Lake	11	2004	W291	15	4	43	1
Chase Brook	16	2002	W367	-	1	NE	1
Chippewa River	71	2004	W351	34	1	29	1
Clam River	20	2004	W460	52	2	56	3
Colburn Wildlife Area	109	Approx.	None	0	2	NE	2
Crex Meadow	18	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Crotte Creek	12	2002	W296	-	3	NE	1
Davis Lake	54	Approx.	None	0	5	NE	1
Dead Creek	104	2004	W411	19	0	11	2
Dunbar	91	2004	W474	28	6	34	1
Eastside Firelane	70	Approx.	None	0	4	NE	1
Eau Claire River	95	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	2
Echo Valley	39	Approx.	None	0	5	NE	1
Eddy Creek	55	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Escanaba Lake	83	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Flag River	37	2004	W438,W439	91	0	41	1
Foxboro	2	Approx.	None	0	4	NE	1
Frog Creek	25	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Ft. McCoy	106	2004	W465	7	0	11	3
Ghost Lake	26	Approx.	None	0	3	NE	1
Giant Pine	85	Approx.	None	0	3	NE	1
Green Creek	60	Approx.	None	0	5	NE	1
Harrison Hills	80	2004	W246	14	4	38	1
Haystack Corner	57	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Hellhole Creek	41	2004	W444	49	4	54	1
Hoffman Lake	68	2003	W459	21	16	NE	1
Hungry Run	47	Approx.	None	0	7	NE	1
Ino Swamp	32	Approx.	None	0	4	NE	1
Iron Run	96	2003	W309	45	0	NE	2

Table 2. Continued.

Pack Name	Map #	Year^a	Collared Wolves	# of radio locations	# of other locations^b	Area (mi²)	Zone^c
Kidrick Swamp	61	Approx.	None	0	2	NE	1
Lake Nebagamom	7	2003	W440	29	1	NE	1
Lake Noquebay	92	Approx.	None	0	10	NE	1
Little Rice River	65	2004	W355	51	6	83	1
Log Creek	51	2002	W286	-	11	NE	1
Long Lake	93	2004	W393	49	1	23	3
Martin Marsh	100	2004	W415,W429	46	1	36	2
Mead Wildlife Area	111	Approx.	None	0	4	NE	3
Miles Lake	67	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Mondeaux Flowage	62	2003	W441	15	2	NE	1
Moose Lake	6	2004	W473	42	6	41	1
Moose Road	15	2001	W155	-	1	NE	1
Moquah	35	2004	W431	17	7	64	1
Moreland Lake	30	2004	W464	26	0	55	1
Morgan Lake	88	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Morrison Creek	49	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Murray's Landing	69	2004	W469,W481	70	9	49	1
Nineweb Lake	84	2000	W318	-	2	NE	1
Noch Hanai	99	2001	W269	-	0	NE	2
North Empire	4	2000	W298	-	2	NE	1
North Willow	76	2004	G996,W461,W482	84	0	82	1
O'Brien Lake	73	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Oconto River	94	2004	W449,W452,W454	146	1	38	3
Orienta Falls	36	Approx.	None	0	7	NE	1
Pelican Lake	81	2004	W332	32	6	55	1
Pike River	90	2004	W336	35	10	51	1
Pine Lake	74	2004	W448	29	1	87	1
Pokegama River	1	Approx.	None	0	10	NE	1
Poplar River	10	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Porcupine Lake	34	2004	W241	15	10	64	1
Price Creek	52	2001	W368	-	10	NE	1
Rainbow Lake	31	1996	W255	-	1	NE	1
Ranger Island	78	2004	G994, W479	50	2	20	1
Rattail	108	2004	W338,W340	75	1	62	2
Riverside	14	Approx.	None	0	2	NE	1
Round Lake	44	2004	W457	34	4	79	1
Seeley Hills	27	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Seneca	107	2004	W341,W414	56	2	12	2
Shanagolden	46	Approx.	None	0	4	NE	1
Shoberg Lake	8	1999	W290	-	0	NE	1
Silo	105	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	2
Siskiwit Lake	38	2003	W369	49	0	NE	1
Skinner Creek	59	Approx.	None	0	3	NE	1
Smoky Hill	28	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	1
Somo River	77	2004	W456	34	9	50	1
South Bluff	103	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	2
South Empire	5	2003	W297	40	1	NE	1
Spirit Lake	64	2004	W456	13	6	24	1
Spring Creek	58	Approx.	None	0	9	NE	1

Table 2. Continued.

Pack Name	Map #	Year^a	Collared Wolves	# of radio locations	# of other locations^b	Area (mi²)	Zone^c
Springbrook	24	2004	W446	22	0	19	1
Stella Lake	82	2004	W376	51	1	18	1
Sterling Barrens	19	Approx.	None	0	7	NE	1
Stuntz Brook	17	1999	W295	-	1	NE	1
Thornapple River	53	1997	W239	-	4	NE	1
Torch River	45	2004	W248	42	4	56	1
Tranus Lake	23	2002	W292	-	5	NE	1
Truck Trail	3	2004	W476	9	10	49	1
Tupper Creek	56	1998	W276	-	1	NE	1
Wedges Creek	97	Approx.	None	0	0	NE	2
West Firelane	48	2004	M036	48	2	35	1
White River	50	Approx.	None	0	1	NE	1
Wildcat Mound	101	2004	W416	12	1	11	2

^a Based on available radio locations between 15 April of the previous year to 14 April of the year listed.

^b Other locations from track surveys, mortalities, depredations, & public and agency reports.

^c Wolf management zone.

^d Territory boundaries approximated based on track surveys, mortalities, depredations, & public and agency reports.

^e No estimate.

Table 3. *Wolf mortality in Wisconsin in 2003.*

Date	Wolf Number	Age/Sex	County	Cause	Pack
1/6/03	W297	A M	Douglas	Mange	South Empire
1/7/03	W443	P F	Oconto	Shot	Oconto River
1/13/03	W395	A M	Langlade	Mange/Other wolves	Prairie River
1/21/03	W724	A F	Langlade	Mange	Prairie River
2/8/03	----	? ?	Lincoln	Vehicle collision	Disperser?
2/9/03	----	A M	Forest	Vehicle collision	?
2/15/03	----	P F	Iron	Vehicle collision	O'Brien Lake?
2/16/03	W427	Y F	Marathon	Mange/Disease?	Disperser
2/20/03	W433(hybrid)	A M	Marquette	Shot	Disperser
3/4/03	----	Y F	Marinette	Shot	Disperser
3/17/03	----	? M	Lincoln	Vehicle collision	?
3/20/03	W369	A F	Bayfield	Vehicle collision/Mange	Siskiwit Lake
04/15/03	----	AM	Sawyer	Shot?/Mange?	?
04/22/03	W343	AM	Portage	Vehicle collision	Mead?/Disperser?
04/24/03	----	AM	Waukesha	Vehicle collision	Disperser
04/29/03	W370	AF	Ashland	Unknown	Black Lake
05/06/03	----	AF	Burnett	Euthanized/Depredation	Riverside?
05/19/03	----	YF	Bayfield	Euthanized/Diseased	Bibbon Swamp?
05/20/03	----	AM	Burnett	Euthanized/Depredation	Riverside?
05/21/03	----	AM	Burnett	Euthanized/Depredation	Riverside?
05/23/03	W275	AF	?	?	Bear Bluff?
05/27/03	W442	AM	Juneau	?	Suk Cerney
05/28/03	----	AF	Barron	Euthanized/Depredation	Blue Hills
05/28/03	----	?M	Door	Shot	Disperser?
05/29/03	----(Hybrid?)	AM	Douglas	Euthanized/Vehicle coll.	Disperser?
06/23/03	----	YM	Washburn	Vehicle collision	Disperser?
07/08/03	----	PM	Ashland	Vehicle collision	Torch River
07/14/03	----	YF	Douglas	Vehicle collision	Moose Lake?
07/19/03	----	PM	Jackson	Vehicle collision	Wildcat Mound
07/26/03	----	AF	Burnett	Euthanized/Depredation	Riverside?
08/06/03	W241	AF	Bayfield	Vehicle collision	Porcupine Lake?
08/08/03	W412	PF	Jackson	Disease?	Bear Bluff

Table 3. Continued.

Date	Wolf Number	Age/Sex	County	Cause	Pack
08/16/03	W431	AF	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/17/03	----	PM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/17/03	----	AM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/19/03	----	PM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/21/03	----	AM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/21/03	----	PF	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/22/03	----	PM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/23/03	----	AM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Orienta Falls?
08/24/03	----	PF	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Orienta Falls?
08/24/03	----	PM	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Orienta Falls?
08/24/03	----	PF	Bayfield	Euthanized/Depredation	Moquah
08/25/03	W476	AM	Douglas	?	Truck Trail
08/29/03	----	PM	Taylor	Euthanized/Depredation	Mondeaux Flowage
09/15/03	----	AM	Washburn	Shot	?
09/26/03	----	YM	Sauk	Vehicle collision	Disperser
11/23/03	----	A?M	Marinette	Shot	Disperser
11/25/03	W411	P F	Jackson	Shot	Dead Creek
11/25/03	W489	P M	Lincoln	Shot	Averill Creek
12/17/03	W464	A F	Bayfield	Other wolves?	Disperser
12/19/03	W351	A M	Ashland	Mange?	Chippewa River
12/19/03	W458	A F	Forest	Mange?	Johnson Springs?

Of 53 mortalities detected, 20 were Wisconsin collared wolves.

<u>Human Causes</u>	<u>All Mortalities</u>	<u>Collared Wolves Only</u>
Vehicle Collision	14 (26%)	3 (15%)
Euthanized/Depredation	17 (32%)	1 (5%)
Shot	9 (17%)	4 (20%)
 <u>Natural Causes</u>		
Mange	6 (11%)	6 (30%)
Disease	2 (4%)	1 (5%)
Other Wolves	1 (2%)	1 (5%)
 <u>Unknown Causes</u>	4 (8%)	4 (20%)

Table 4. Probable and possible wolf observations reported by natural resource agency personnel and private citizens in Wisconsin, 2003.

County	Number of Sightings	Wolves Seen	Track or Sign Observations	Total Wolf Observations
Adams	0	0	1	1
Ashland*	16	20	8	24
Barron	1	1	0	1
Bayfield*	12	27	11	23
Brown	4	5	1	5
Burnett*	5	13	2	7
Chippewa	0	0	2	2
Crawford	1	1	0	1
Dane	4	4	0	4
Door	3	5	0	3
Douglas*	12	20	11	23
Florence*	2	4	2	4
Forest*	8	9	11	19
Grant	1	1	0	1
Iron*	21	34	5	26
Jackson*	4	10-11	1	5
Langlade	7	8	1	8
Lincoln*	5	11-12	4	9
Manitowoc	1	1	0	1
Marathon	6	6	1	7
Marinette*	21	29	10	31
Marquette	3	9	1	4
Menominee	1	1	0	1
Oconto*	4	5	5	9
Oneida*	10	20	18	28
Pierce	1	1	0	1
Polk*	1	2	1	2
Price*	19	35	10	29
Rusk*	3	8	2	5
Sauk	1	1	1	2
Sawyer*	4	9	3	7
Shawano	6	11	2	8
Vernon	2	3	0	2
Vilas*	8	11	3	11
Washburn*	8	16	2	10
Washington	2	2	0	2
Waupaca	0	0	1	1
Waushara	2	2	0	2
Wood*	1	1	0	1
Total	210	346-348	120	330

*Counties believed to have packs with breeding activity in 2003. Clark, Juneau, Monroe, and Taylor counties were also believed to have packs with breeding activity.

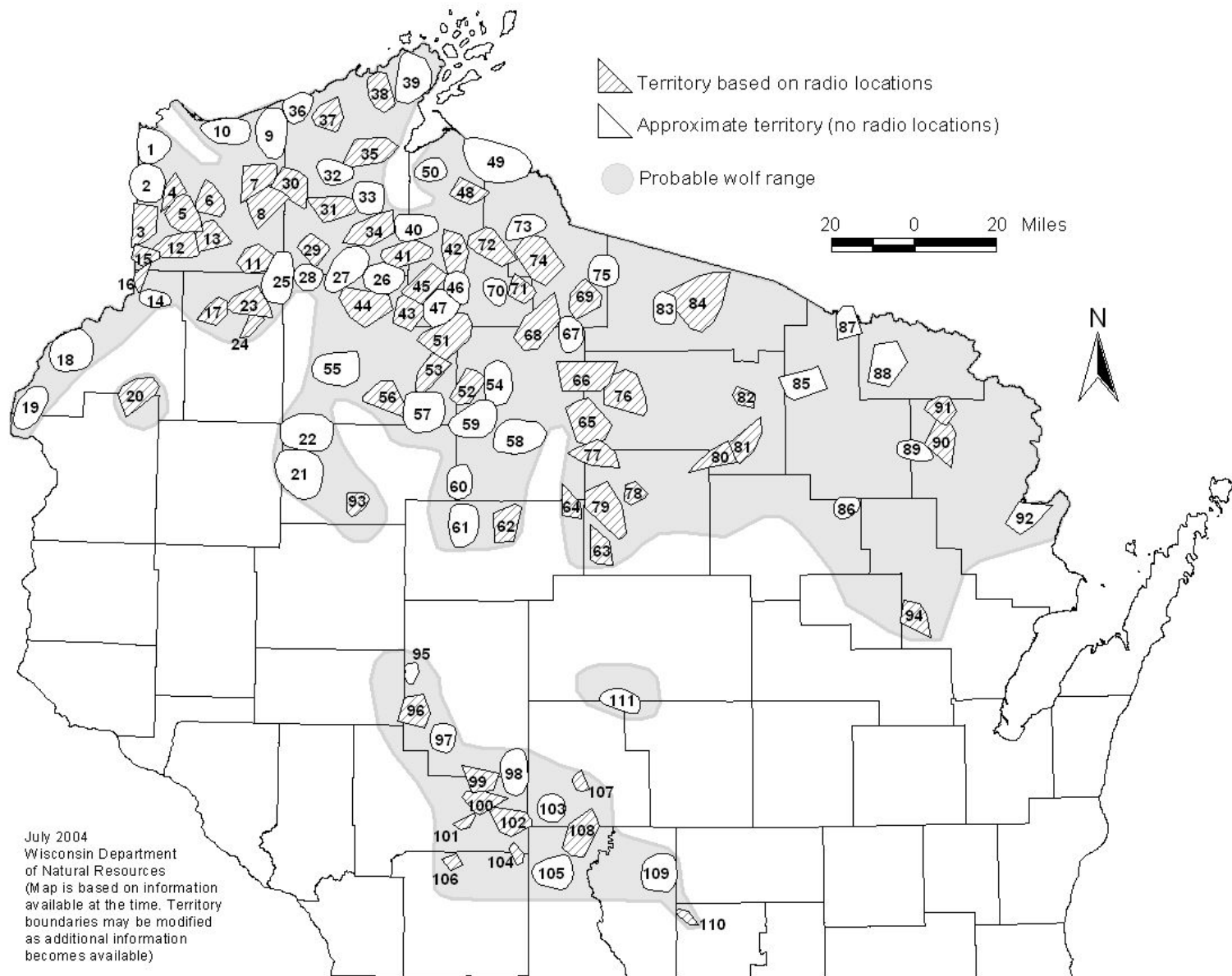


Figure 1. *Gray Wolf Distribution in Wisconsin: Winter 2003-2004 (numbers refer to Tables 1 and 2).*

Figure 2. *Changes in Wisconsin Gray Wolf Population: 1980-2004*

